

# THE GATOR NEWSLETTER

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The 4th AA Bn Family Readiness Newsletter is intended to inform Marine families of their unit's activities and to make important information available to them. It is published on a quarterly basis. The 4th AA Bn is comprised of units from Tampa FL, Norfolk VA, Gulfport MS, Jacksonville FL, and Galveston TX. The 4th AA Battalion's web address is [www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/4thaav](http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/4thaav). The site contains information on family readiness, the key volunteer network and UNITAS.

Did you know you can get your ID card at any military base as long as all the necessary information has been supplied to your local administrative unit by your spouse? All you need to do is go to a reserve center, get a completed form 1172 and take that to the base office that issues ID cards.

## KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

### Key Volunteer Mission Statement

The Key Volunteer Network is an integral part of the commander's family readiness program and is the primary communication link between The Commanding Officer and 4th AA Bn families for the enhancement of mission readiness

### Key Volunteer Network

The Key Volunteer Network is a communication network designed to provide information, and support to families within 4th AA Bn. The KVN provides professional training and development, learning for a lifetime, encouragement, empowerment and fun.

The Commanding Officer oversees the entire Key Volunteer Network for 4th AA Bn.



### A Key Volunteer-

Serves as a communication link.

Assists in developing and maintaining a sense of community within 4th AA Bn.

Is a reliable source of information and referral.

### Want to become a Key Volunteer?

Contact your unit Family Readiness Officer or Key Volunteer Coordinator for details. Their phone number is listed on the following page.

Join the team and you too can make a difference.

## 4TH AA BATTALION PARTICIPATES IN UNITAS

UNITAS is an annual series of multinational training exercises and operations conducted by U. S. Marine Corps, Navy, Special Operations and Coast Guard forces with their counterparts from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela and various North

American and West European navies.

Marines from all 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion units will participate in the upcoming UNITAS. UNITAS is a Latin term meaning "unity".

The Marines will gain valuable training in this exercise which

promotes interoperability and cultivates closer ties with participating South American armed forces.

You can follow your Marines on deployment by going to the UNITAS link on the battalion web site:

[www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/4thaav](http://www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/4thaav).

## HEADQUARTERS & SERVICE COMPANY TAMPA, FLORIDA

The Tampa Marines have trained intensively over the last six months. They've been to Camp Blanding for the Marine Corps Martial Arts Tan Belt course and have been to Avon Park Air Force Range twice for gunnery training and mechanized operations. They

have also been to the rifle range and have taken the required annual physical fitness test and swim qualification. The Marines are busy preparing for their two-week summer training.

Tampa will have its quarterly **Key Volunteer** training at the

Tampa reserve center on Saturday, May 18th at 2:00 pm. Any family members who wish to become a key volunteer or just want to learn more about the **Family Readiness Program** are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Family Readiness Officer  
GySgt Kovacich  
(813) 805-7036

Asst Family Readiness Officer  
GySgt Phillips  
(813) 265-0208

Key Volunteer Coordinator  
Nancy Kovacich

## COMPANY A(-) NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Marines from Norfolk received Tan Belt training at Camp Blanding in October. They have also participated in weapons qualification and mechanized operations.

During the May drill they will focus on Mobilization Operational Readiness Deployment Test (MORDT) preparation. The MORDT is conducted every two years to assess deployment readiness.

This summer Norfolk Marines will participate in Amphibious Operations Training (AOT) in Southern California.

Family Readiness Officer  
1st Sgt Roy  
(757) 462-5743

## 3RD PLATOON, COMPANY A GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

The Gulfport Marines have concentrated on weapons training and field skills in preparation for their two-week summer training at a Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) in California.

Additionally, the Marines have advanced in their Martial Arts training to the Gray Belt level.

As a special event they received a visit from Congressman Gene Taylor, who has strong ties with the military.

Gulfport had its Family Day during its May drill. Marines and their families were provided information about the Red Cross, family services, and obtaining legal assistance.

Family Readiness Officer  
1st Sgt Rouse  
(228) 871-3104

Key Volunteer Coordinator  
Maria Nichols

## COMPANY B(-) JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

The Marines from Jacksonville are getting ready for their two-week summer training at a Combined Arms Exercise (CAX) in California.

The **Key Volunteers** met on May 11th at noon at the armed forces reserve center on Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

The meeting covered KV mission and goals. Topics included KV expense reimbursement, legal issues, and summer KV events.

Family Readiness Officer  
1st Sgt Osteen  
(904) 542-1752

## 3RD PLATOON, COMPANY B GALVESTON, TEXAS

Galveston Marines have conducted a wide variety of training evolutions. They have practiced water operations, performed AAV gunnery in

preparation for their two-week Amphibious Operations Training (AOT) this summer in Southern California.

Galveston will have its Family Day and **Key Volunteer** training in September.

Family Readiness Officer  
1st Sgt Higgins  
(409) 766-3723/4

Key Volunteer Coordinator  
Michelle Scott